

Annual Report

UPON THE

Public Health and
Sanitary Administration

OF

The Rural District of
Abergavenny

For the Year 1947

BY

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS, M.B., Ch.B.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





COUNCIL OFFICES,
MONK STREET,
ABERGAVENNY,

June, 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1947 ; dealing with matters affecting the Public Health and Social Welfare of your district during that year.

I. General Statistics.

Area	...	62,685 acres.
Population	..	7,582
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books on 31st December, 1947)	...	2,184

II. Social Conditions and Occupations.

Much of the area is mountainous in character ; and the main occupation is agriculture, including market gardening. The Factory at Llanfoist, converted from war-time production to the manufacture of Mechanical Joints, etc., absorbs a proportion of the female labour ; and a proportion continue to be employed at Glascoed Ordnance Factory ; and men in the Blaenavon Works.

III. Births and Deaths.

Total number of Live Births	...	135
Legitimate	...	126
Illegitimate	...	9
Total number of Still Births	...	3
		(Legitimate)
Total number of Deaths	...	94
Total number of Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	...	3
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	17.80
Death Rate ditto	...	12.53
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births		22.2
Infant Mortality Rate ditto	...	22.2

IV. Notifiable Infectious Diseases (excl. Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Age 0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	Over 25	Total	Admit'd to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ..	...	5	4	...	2	11	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	...	...	1	...	1	2	2
Measles ..	10	16	8	2	2	38	...
Whooping Cough ..	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
 Totals ..	12	21	13	2	5	53	3

There were no deaths from any of the above diseases.

Considering the widespread epidemic of Poliomyelitis the district was fortunate in having only two cases ; and one of these was a child who came into this area on holiday and had been infected before her arrival ; since she developed the disease a few days afterwards. As will be seen from the above table, there was a considerable number of cases of Measles, particularly among the school children. The above figures do not represent an accurate number of those infected, since in many cases no doctor was called in and therefore there was no notification.

It is gratifying that there were no cases of Diphtheria.

V. Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Since the school children are practically all immunised more attention has been directed towards immunising those under school age - particularly the one and two year olds. As in 1946 a list of children becoming one year old in 1947 was compiled from the Registrar's Returns, and a reminder of the facilities for immunisation sent to each parent round about the date of the child's first birthday. The response could have been better ; the percentage still remains too low. Immunisation was carried out at the Surgery every Tuesday between 9 a.m. & 3 p.m., and in cases where parents could not bring children in, the homes were visited.

The following statistics show how the campaign has progressed.

Total number of children immunised during 1947	81
.. under 5 years of age	71
.. between 5 & 15 years of age	10
.. who received one 'revival' dose	8
.. who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947	1297
.. under 5 years of age	307
.. between 5 & 15 years of age	990
.. who received one 'revival' dose	17

Estimated child population mid-1947 :-

Under 5 years of age	573
(giving percentage immunised	... 53.6)
5 - 15 years of age	1,014
(giving percentage immunised	... 97.)

VI. Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases notified during 1947	9
Pulmonary	8 (2 patients in Mental Hosp'l)
Non-Pulmonary	1
Total number of Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1947	3 (all Pulmonary)
Deaths of patients in the Mental Hospital are not included since they are residents of another area.	

VII. Incidence and Treatment of Scabies.

Practically no cases of Scabies were reported. The few that occurred were treated in their own homes.

VIII. Venereal Disease.

The incidence of Venereal diseases appeared to be much less than in 1946; and there were few cases notified as coming into the district from other areas. Treatment for all cases is carried out at the Newport Clinic; from which notice has been received occasionally that a patient has not attended as requested; and investigations have been made as to the reason.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I. Housing.

During the year 22 houses were completed and tenanted, and a number of schemes were formulated for acquisition of sites for further building, and submitted to the appropriate departments for consideration and sanction. The possibility of using part of the Llanover P.O.W. Camp for temporary dwellings was discussed ; and negotiations started for acquiring same.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority in December, 1947	109
Number of houses in course of erection	20
Number of houses completed during year	22
Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise	2
Number of houses for which sanction has been given, but which had not been commenced	20
Number of houses inspected for defects in 1947	28
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action by Local Authority	3
Number of houses in respect of which Statutory notices were served to carry out repairs	2

Housing Survey.

No further inspections were carried out in connection with the above.

II. Water Supply.

Owing to the variations in altitude and the number of scattered, sparsely populated villages and hamlets, the water supply of the area is one of the Authorities' biggest problems, particularly as the number of houses increase. The sources of water supply are numerous ; mainly springs. In the larger villages, e.g., Mardy, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, and Llanover, the supply is sufficient and the quality up to standard ; but there are a number of smaller villages and outlying dwelling houses where the supply is inadequate, or where analysis reports are not always satisfactory.

The main piped supplies owned by the Local Authority are :-

1. **Govilon.** A series of springs connected to a small tank are utilised to drive a ram for the higher level ; the overflow supplying the lower level by gravitation. During the year the main was extended to supply the 12 new Council houses ; 6 on the Ram Scheme and 6 on the Gravitation Scheme.

This supply is satisfactory in quality, but the quantity — particularly to the higher level, is not always adequate. Negotiations to take a supply from the Abertillery 16" main were set up and practically completed during the year ; and further negotiations started for a 3" connection to the new 28" Newport Corporation's main being laid through the area. On the lower level 83 premises are supplied, mostly direct from the main ; and on the higher level 56 premises.

2. **Pwlldu.** A 2,000 gals. storage tank at source of the spring in adit. supplies 35 premises by means of 6 stand pipes. This is the only supply in the district showing any plumbo-solvent action ; and as a precaution galvanised iron pipes are used.
3. **Garndyrris.** Spring with stand pipe supplies ten premises ; with an extension for 60 yards to a stand pipe fixed near Garndyrris Cottage.
4. **Allws.** A spring is utilised to raise water by a ram to tanks with standpipes supplying 17 premises.
5. **Llanfoist.** The supply for this area is drawn from Newport Corporation main ; 3 and 4 inch pipes conveying a supply to 85 premises and the Factory ; with standpipes for the few premises not connected to the main. The average consumption for private dwellings is about 7,000 gals. per day.
6. **Llanelen.** A spring connected to 1½ in. pipe supplies 16 premises. The quality is satisfactory, but the quantity not always adequate.
7. **Mardy.** Tynywern spring connected to 5, 4 & 3 inch pipes supplies 86 premises, all of which are connected to the main, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch branch pipes supplying Mardy Park and the Mill.

8. **Llanvihangel Crucorney.** The overflow from the above spring is utilised to raise 12,000 gals. per day by hydrostats through 3" pipes to a 20,000 gals. concrete water tower. 58 premises are all connected to the main. During the year a connection was taken off the 3" main and 450 yards of 1" pipe laid to supply Llanteens Cottages.
9. **Llanvetherine.** A spring with 1" pipe to tank and standpipe supplies 5 dwellings near the main road. Another spring supplies 17 premises in Caggle Street area by means of two standpipes ; some of the dwellings being at too high a level for gravitational supply.
10. **Llangattock Lingoed.** A spring with small tank and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe to a standpipe supplies 12 premises ; the level of the source being too low for connection into the houses.
11. **Bettws Newydd.** A spring with storage tank is connected to 10 premises in the villages.
12. **Penlanlas.** A spring on the side of the Deri is utilised to supply Penlanlas Cottages and the Farm.

• The main privately owned piped supplies are as follows :-

1. **Llanover Estate.** Llanover village is supplied by a 2" pipe from Coedyfelin Spring to a 25,000 gals. storage tank, which serves 34 premises. New Inn spring supplies another 23 premises in or near the village. A series of springs on the Nant, Llanelen, supplies about 80 premises over a large area of Llanelen, Llangattock-nigh-Usk and Llanvair Cross. The quality is satisfactory, but pressure insufficient for some of the higher areas. Cwm Uchaf spring supplies another 9 premises by a 1" pipe.
2. **Llanarth Estate.** A spring near Upper House supplies 19 premises through a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe ; this supply proves inadequate in drought periods. Springs at Court-y-gelly supply the villages of Llanarth and Great Oak, and a spring near Great House supplies the latter and raises water by a ram to Cefn Coch.

3. **Grosmont.** Supply is carried by $1\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe from spring to a tank at upper end of the village, and from there by gravitation, to 20 premises through 2, $1\frac{1}{2}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipes.

Negotiations to take over these private supplies were continued during the year in order to conform with the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act (1944) Investigations were also carried out and plans formulated for supplying Brynygwenin with an adequate water supply.

Apart from the piped supplies there are a number of wells in the district supplying outlying dwellings. Repairs were carried out to the following : Llangattock Lingoed, Cefn Coed, Llanelen, and Vedw Farm Well, Hardwick.

Two chemical and 20 bacteriological water samples were submitted for analysis.

During the year 4,522,763 gallons of water were supplied to the Borough from the Tynywern supply.

III. Sewerage.

The only Sewerage works are those for the villages of Mardy and Llanvihangel Crucorney, with Disposal works near Abergavenny Junction Station. During the year the sewer was extended to pick up the sewage from 6 houses at Spring Wells.

Llanfoist Factory has its own Sewerage Plant.

Effluent drains were laid from the Llanelen Council houses for a distance of 550 ft. ; and from the Govilon Council houses for distance of 1,200 ft., with the necessary inspection chambers.

IV. Milk Supply.

Examination of dairies and cowsheds was carried out, and 2 samples of Milk were submitted for analysis.

V. Refuse Collection.

During the year this service was extended to include Monmouth Cap.

VI. Meat Inspection.

No inspection of carcases takes place in the Rural area since all slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Abergavenny Abattoir.

VII. Rodent Control.

A full time Rodent Officer is employed to deal with infestation in the area.

As you are aware, under the National Health Service, your district will be amalgamated with others under a full time M.O.H.; so that this will probably be the last Annual Report I shall submit. May I take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council and Officials, past and present, for the consideration they have shown, and the help they have afforded me during my twelve years of office.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

M.O.H.



